GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1223
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
LIFTING OF BAN ON RICE EXPORT
Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe;Pradhan Shri Dharmendra;Rijiju Shri Kiren;Shivanna Shri M;Vallabhbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ban on export of nonbasmati rice has led to huge losses to rice traders due to cancellation of their orders;

(b) if so, whether the ban has received all round condemnation for being a retrograde step;

(c) if so, whether recommendations have been received from various quarters for lifting of the ban; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) : Rice traders have, reportedly, incurred losses owing to the ban on export of non-basmati rice. The Government has made no assessment of these losses.

(b) to (d): The Government had imposed a ban on export of non-basmati rice in order to maximize procurement of rice for meeting the requirements of targeted Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes. In the wake of representations from various stake- holders against a complete ban on export of this commodity, the Government has now allowed the export of non-basmati rice whose Minimum Export Price is more than US$ 425 per ton.